

LET'S TALK IT OVER

N Chunking, where a small bottle of ink costs fifty shillings and locally made cigarettes on the quality sell for 10/-, it would be reasonable to say that it cost 150 times as much as it was in pre-war days. That being so, however, the poorest labourers, who have never been to university, can afford to buy something approaching 150 times what they used to do. For otherwise they would starve.

It is not easy to see that statistics are apt to mislead; that economics is the least exact of the sciences; and that nobody really knows the value of anything at all.

These general reflections may have more bearing upon war than upon food, but at first sight appears.

We have, for instance, set so high a value upon victory as to put it above all else.

In this sense it is true that it does not matter what it costs. For men, fifteen times as many pounds a day, and just figures which have lost all meaning.

If, for example, you should suppose that it would cost a world as "cheaply" as it is possible to defend you, you are imagining a war-time.

For sooner or later, in one form or another, we shall all be called upon to foot the bill for the fulfilment of our hearts' desire.

THE possibility is that the war will be fought to "unconditional surrender" within twelve months.

General Smuts speaking in Cairo after the three of the Three-Power Conferences, said he thought we should have "victory on our pockets" before Christmas, 1944.

Christmases may well be spent in the Balkans, in Turkey, calling a million reservoirs to the colours should we have to intervene in the Hitler European Fortress might be stormed sooner than any expert could have dared to forecast.

Bulgaria is already in a state of ferment, brought by a breath of the Turkish President's visit to Cairo. A large part of its population, including the best, are out of the war in almost any terms.

Our correspondent makes no dated prediction. He is satisfied to repeat his warning that Europe's war will be long and hard, and so unexpectedly as to constitute a great national and international surprise.

We have to remember that this colossal world conflict has already lasted longer than the Great War, 1914-1918, and that, although the Nazi military machine is terrible, we are, we are fighting the same people who suddenly decided to capture twenty-five years ago.

And the same people! Shall we have anything left in our pockets beside victory? The German people would break down and the German people surrender this time, as unexpectedly as they did on the last occasion?

In his previous highly "explosive" speech, Smuts warned us that Great Britain would emerge from the

struggle and so soon down the strength of the Japanese by sea and air and land attack.

The pattern of victory in the war is thus becoming steadily clearer, and the progress of still greater progress in the battle-ground of men's minds.

★

THIS is the spirit of the Roosevelt-Stalin-Churchill declaration from Tehran which has been so well measured by pre-war standards.

Fundamental values may not change, but the pace of application of such values has changed enormously in the past year.

And I have come to the conclusion that, provided we want a new peace-like order of things, we must be prepared to pay a price.

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But the Nazis were expecting "the Big Three" to urge the Balkan powers to join them in their war on the Allies.

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'Percy' Gets It Through

FROM a merchant ship in mid-Atlantic, "Percy," a carrier pigeon service hero of the London blitz, flew with a message to the Merchant Navy's Comptroller.

On the 10th, when what might prove to be the last Christmas of the war, we the men of the Merchant Navy, the Merchant Navy wives of Britain, the message read:

"We have just brought some meat and mutton home—so sorry it could not be more—

"We want you women at home to know how much we appreciate the work you have kept going through more than four years of war."

Now the end is in sight we are thinking of you all at home on Christmas Day and we will be hoping that it will be a Victory Christmas dinner in 1945.

And that is all of you, for us men in the Merchant Navy Comptroller Service."

Mr. Kirkland Bridge, a good-looking man in a blue jacket, stood around Percy's neck for outstanding service to the Navy.

Nearly £500 was raised by the auction of gift birds, £12 was paid for a bird set and the King's Arcade price was £2 per bird.

Parson M.P. Indicts Sunday Shows Farce

CHAOS caused by the arbitrary rules of the censoring committee for the troops is to be challenged again by Mr. N. W. Sorenson, Socialist M.P. for West Bromwich.

Mr. Sorenson said:

"The War Minister

what representations he has received from commanding officers,

officers and other commanding

officers, to the effect that they

desire to have the Sunday

entertainments where there is a

public demand and need."

NAZIS CALL UP '16'S

The Germans are preparing to up-grade their forces in the class

1927—sixty-odd years—next

January, according to a Berlin

newspaper, the "Sokrates," Social-Democratic yesterday.

Rise In 'Flu' Deaths

In the 125 great towns of England and Wales, including London, 709 people died from influenza in the week ended

Nov. 25, according to the Registrar-General's return.

This is the highest figure since the last week of February, 1937, when deaths totalled 916.

The peak year was in the last week of January, 1938, the previous reaching 1,021.

The previous week there were 629 deaths in one week.

Last month's figures, showing a slight increase, were:

November 6, 31; November 13, 46; November 20, 106; November 27, 370.

He Wants 'Glasshouse' Action

"GLASSHOUSE" discipline and

conditions in detention

centres, as raised by Field-

Marshal Sorensen, M.P., for

Midlothian and Prestwich,

and Sir E. Grigg, the War Minister, is in a position to make a statement.

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from commanding officers,

officers and other commanding

officers, to the effect that they

desire to have the Sunday

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public demand and need."

More Wrinkled Peas For Christmas!

There are no more chocolates

or sweets for Christmas, but you can have more wrinkled peas.

The last off-pours during the

war have been collected and

will be sent to the food bank

at Dardard Barracks immediately

on presentation of a play or of

entertainments in costume in

midwinter.

In a further question to

Mr. Sorenson, M.P., he said:

"The Government has

asked for a further extension

before further consideration is

given to the question of the abolition

of the Sunday

entertainments where there is a

public demand and need."

EX-GOVERNOR DIES

Sir John Walter, former Governor of Bengal, died in Calcutta, at a ripe old age, on Nov. 26.

For the rest of rationed foods the points are "as you were."

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GRACIE FIELDS,
MURDER WITNESS

Holywood, Saturday.

Gracie Fields is to testify at the trial of Captain Falconer, who is charged with the murder of her former secretary, London-born Captain Van Sonnenberg, in Hollywood on Nov. 26.

She will give evidence for the prosecution—*as it is*.

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GRACIE F



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£250
RED CROSS
CONTENTS

This signature on a radio set means that it has been conceived and engineered by men trained in and inspired by the Marconi tradition

MARCONIPHONE the REAL THING in Radio



After the war, your local Marconi Man will once more be fully equipped to serve you—with new sets and expert technical advice.

NAAFI, in the third year of the war distributed to H.M. Forces over £3,000,000 in cash and supplies. In the last year £1,000,000 was distributed by monthly cheques to units for the benefit of the men, in proportion to the volume of the trade in their NAAFI centres.

A further £1,200,000 was sent on NAAFI entertainment for the Forces at home and overseas, and £1,000,000 allocated to benevolent funds of the three Services and the Red Cross and the War Fund.

• These contributions can be continued only if NAAFI canteen service can be maintained with an adequate staff.

Managers, Cooks and Counter Assistants are needed. Apply, NAAFI, Imperial Court, Kemington Lane, London, S.E.1, or any Employment Exchange.

* Does not apply to single men (or widowers) born in the years 1918-1923.

That's where NAAFI profits go!

£800,000



H.M. Forces in a year

Cut out this Xmas fare!

This does not refer to turkey (if you can get it), or Christmas pudding (if you can make it), but to fares for travelling. The railways are heavily burdened with traffic which must come first. To stay put is the sensible thing to do.

What do I do? ...
I make up my mind not to travel this Christmas unless it is absolutely imperative.

I keep in mind that passenger accommodation will be

Issued by the Ministry of Information

Space presented to the Nation by the Brewers' Society

WHAT PRECISION IS TO THE BOFORS GUN

HERCULES

PRECISION ENGINEERING IS TO

THE CYCLE OF TO-DAY.



The Hercules Cycle and Motor Co., Ltd., Aston, Birmingham

1948

THE PEOPLE'S CROSSWORD OFFER
£750 FIRST PRIZE
£250
CLOSING DATE FIRST
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15

SECOND PRIZE £100
THIRD PRIZE £50
FOUR AWARDS £25
PRIZE POOL £100

ENTER BY POST CARD OR ENVELOPE

